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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 1

THE LESSON OF THE WILLESDEN.

The arrival in port yesterday of the British steamer Willemsen accentuates a lesson in the acquisition of immigrants from Europe by way of the Strait of Magellan which it is probable the local board of immigration will take strongly to heart. The principal point to be realized is that it is practically impossible to bring a crowded steamer such a long distance, twice crossing the equator, without running an unusual risk for the spread of epidemic diseases, in spite of every precaution. So far as the Willemsen is concerned the fact that there is so far a death toll of only twenty-seven indicates that every case possible was taken with the herded immigrants in a ship where smallpox and other contagious diseases had broken out before it had even reached Puntarenas in the Strait of Magellan.

From almost a semitropical climate, such as prevails in Portugal and the south of Spain, across the southern Atlantic down to the verge of perpetual floating ice and cold storms is bound to prove a shock to the constitutions of those unused to such sudden climaxes of weather, especially the children, and it was these little ones of the Willemsen who suffered the most. Then up again and across the equator for the second time the ship sailed its course under a blazing sun, until it reached the area of the cooling trade winds and its destination. But the changes of climate, for which probably few if any of the passengers were prepared in clothing or accommodations, was bound to have its effects on their health, even if the contagious diseases had not been present.

As Doctor Clark, executive officer of the board of immigration, emphatically remarks the only solution to the problem of bringing to Hawaii the immigrants from Europe which are desired is to bring them in smaller batches and in steamers which will not have to depend entirely upon its immigrant passengers for expenses and profit. A regular line of such steamers between Hawaii and European ports, even to the north of Europe, would probably have all the voluntary immigrants they could well carry, and at the same time build up a trade which would ensure a good profit. But it looks as though this will only happen in the years ahead, if at all, when the Panama Canal is opened to traffic.

Meanwhile the Willemsen is in the hands of the federal quarantine officers, and once again this service is proving its splendid worth to the people of this Territory. Facing an emergency which is bound to tax its every facility and the last efforts of every physician in the service, Doctor Carl Ramus, chief of the United States Marine Hospital Service in Hawaii, with Doctor James, Doctor Marshall, Doctor Sinclair and Doctor Gillespie to assist, is doing everything that can be done for the speedy recovery of the sick and for preventing the spread of disease.

It may be nearly three weeks before the eighteen hundred and odd people who have come from half-way around the world seeking new homes and new opportunities, will have a chance to greet their friends here, or to get started in the work which will eventually mean citizenship and comfortable surroundings. But it is proper that they should bear their burden of impatience as quietly as possible, for it is of the greatest importance that these future citizens do not bring to their new country the germs of an epidemic which may turn the joy of their friends here into sorrow.

CHINESE RED CROSS WOMEN.

Among various thoroughly modern and civilized features of the revolutionary war in China, a Red Cross system is notable. When Japan made war upon Russia occidental nations were surprised at the perfection of her Red Cross, hospital and health service, as well as at her careful observance of the most advanced rules of what is called civilized warfare. It is time to be surprised again, at discovering that the leaders of this sudden uprising in China not only duplicate, our own Red Cross system as a plan of humane work, but that in such work they have the aid of young Chinese girls. Two days ago The Advertiser published the news that Chinese women in Honolulu were organizing a Red Cross society and were going to send bandages and other aid to the front, as did American women during the Spanish war, and British during the Boer war.

A letter received by The Advertiser from China by the Siberia mail, from a young Chinese Honolulu, now in Hankow, tells of the turning over of big business houses in some of the cities for Red Cross purposes. "Business is at a standstill in Hankow, Wuchang and Hanyang," says the writer, "and all the big business houses that had closed are now turned over into Red Cross hospitals. There are about twenty in the Hankow foreign concessions, six over at Wuchang and three at Hanyang. It is the first time in the history of China that Red Cross hospitals have been known, but still more surprising than their existence is to see young Chinese girls on the verge of womanhood volunteering for service as nurses."

This seems to be one among many recent signs that China has been a bit more "awake" than the rest of the world thought. The youth who writes the words above quoted is one of the many sent from here with an American education. If China travels the road of progress anything like as fast as Japan did, these various signs of awakening may revolutionize international politics within the time of the present generation.

THE BAKER ARTICLES.

The people of Hawaii probably never knew how desperately they are being abused until Ray Stannard Baker, of the American Magazine, pointed it out for us. While a great deal that Mr. Baker is writing is undoubtedly correct, there is also a great deal in which he was apparently misled during his short stay in the Islands. So far, the magazine man has been making a diagnosis; whether he will prescribe the remedy or not remains to be seen. Probably not. We have plenty of people, let it be said, to tell us just where we are wrong, but the man with some constructive plan to make a real Eden out of Hawaii has not yet appeared.

The articles Mr. Baker is writing must not be regarded too lightly. He is putting his finger on many of the sore spots in our system and is pointing them out to a constituency far wider than any that has previously had its attention drawn to Hawaii. The mainland press is commenting upon the series, already, and the comment is not calculated to reassure those here who are interested in the maintenance of the tariff on sugar—and who here is not interested? The Grand Rapids (Michigan) Press, for instance, says:

Hawaii has been built up as a sugar principality largely through the thirty-four dollars a ton tariff, which protects the Hawaiian product from foreign competition in the United States. The consumers of this country foot this bill.

When it comes time for congress to discuss the tariff on sugar Mr. Baker's articles will prove valuable for reference purposes. He presents an array of facts which make a strong argument for a lightning of this particular tariff burden.

A SAILORS' SPORTS DAY.

The cruisers of the Pacific Fleet are to be in Hawaiian waters for Christmas and for New Years and doubtless will be in port for those days. This fact affords Honoluluans the opportunity looked for to set as hosts for a special day in honor of the sailors. It has been suggested, and the suggestion is a good one, that the business men of this city subscribe to a fund to provide one big day's sports for the visiting men of the fleet, with a lush throw in.

A few hundred dollars would provide means to hang up some sport purses worth contending for, in a program to include such events as an intership tug-of-war, relay race, baseball match, bicycle races and events of that kind, and to provide refreshments for the men. Kapolei Park would be an ideal place for the holding of such a program.

The Advertiser understands that the citizens are desirous of offering some entertainment for the sailors, and offers this as a suggestion.

Mr. President Tenney of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, retired with the sighs of the entire organization and the satisfaction of having been in power during the recent year.

A HEALTHY HISTORY.

The annual report of R. L. Tenney, retiring president of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, made yesterday, deals with a year in which Hawaii has made her best sugar crop record, has had the benefit of better prices than the best authorities expected when the year began and has made substantial progress in the difficult task of bringing suitable immigrants from Europe to increase the supply of labor here. As for the future, Mr. Tenney, though seeing reason to hope for continued prosperity, writes with a conservative business man's caution, and points out that there are still problems to be met.

After many disappointments and some shilly failures, in the matter of securing immigrants, it will be gratifying to all to read the authoritative statement that the families brought this year from Europe have not only proved "satisfactory to the plantations," but are "anxious to have their friends and relatives join them here." That means that they are prosperous and contented, which in turn means that their employers have looked after them well.

Mr. Tenney ventures no prediction as to what congress will do with the sugar tariff, but he points out the natural expectation, regardless of tariff legislation, that the period of high prices will be followed by much lower prices. This occurs in the ordinary course of events with any agricultural product, for the news of high prices always causes more acreage to be planted, until the farmers drive the price to such a level that they can do better with a different crop.

It has not been by mere good luck that Hawaii has achieved such results as justify Mr. Tenney in saying, "I believe that I can safely say that it is a well-accepted fact that Hawaii leads in the world today in the scientific cultivation and manufacture of cane sugar." Intelligent management and unbounded enterprise and foresight have been needed to gain the supremacy. The great organization of which Mr. Tenney has just served a term as president, may well be proud of its proven abilities on these lines, and the people of Hawaii, who depend upon it still for most of their prosperity, wish it more success. It is true that now Hawaii has other important and growing industries. But sugar still leads by far, and success in sugar is still most essential to local prosperity, and to a very great extent, in what our other industries depend upon.

NEED OF A STRONGER POLICE FORCE.

The report that comes from police circles, announcing the outbreak of a serious feud between certain gangs of toughs in the city and some of the men of the coast artillery post and of the marine barracks, is one that demands immediate attention. It also emphasizes the contention made in this paper that the Honolulu police force must be very much increased and included in the increase must be the drafting into the force of a number of white officers.

During the past several years the city has grown greatly in population, while the police force has been decreased, both in number and effectiveness. The county act first and the municipal act later divided the police force of the island in such a way that we have, as it works out, several separate forces, more or less independent of each other instead of one homogeneous body of men. Each deputy sheriff has his own little force, and while the police themselves are responsible to the sheriff, the deputy sheriffs, under whom the police act, are not.

Honolulu should be the headquarters for a strong police force, with mounted men in the majority, and the patrolling of the island should be done from the central city headquarters. The office of deputy sheriff should be done away with, or that office should be made directly and wholly under the sheriff, who could then, if necessary, throw his whole force where it might be needed, or could change the stations of the police from time to time, as is found necessary in even better police forces than that of Oahu.

What should be done first and without further delay, however, is the increasing of the city patrol force. In some sections the ones who make trouble are getting out of hand and are commencing to appreciate the fact that the police force as now constituted may be braved with impunity.

The authorities should awaken to the seriousness of the situation as the higher police officers see it. We want no Brownsville incident in Honolulu, or any trouble between the toughs of this city and the soldiers stationed here that will disturb the generally pleasant relations now existing between the men in uniform and the townsfolk.

THE FUTURE OF OAHU AS A FORTESS.

The words of Major-General Arthur Murray, U.S.N., yesterday, as quoted in The Advertiser this morning, are significant of the future of Oahu as a military station. Evidently there has all along been a premeditated cooperation between the high army and navy officers who are now in this city. Three admirals of the United States Navy and two generals in the United States Army in conference on an island of the Pacific Ocean is an unusual happening and it means something. What it means to the civilian population of this Territory is a wonderful prosperity, if the opportunity is seized. It means that with the 20,000 men eventually to be stationed on Oahu there will be a market for every possible pound of fruit or vegetable that can be raised here by the farmers of the Territory—if the freight rates from the other islands are made reasonable enough to compete with the freight rates from the Coast.

Then again, with the building of the new fortifications, the contracts for supplies, the housing for the officers, the necessity for more stores or the extension of those now in operation, all make for opportunity in business, and the federal government will gladly welcome any possible development which will make easier the feeding and housing of the masses of men who will eventually make of this island their home for years at a time, eventually—many of them—to settle here after their enlistment expires.

And the island itself will be "hooped" with steel and concrete. It is proposed to make it impregnable to any possible invader in time of war and undoubtedly the time will come, before so very long, when Oahu can well be termed the "Gibraltar of the Pacific," the western fortress and guard of the United States; for in combination with the Navy and its base at Pearl Harbor, it will be only through the air that an attack on the coast of California could be made.

FEDERAL PROGRESS AND MUNICIPAL STAGNATION.

A spectacle amazing to the thoughtful is presented in this city, with leading army and navy men going over the local situation planning for the expenditure of millions for army and navy purposes, and, on the other hand, the members of the municipal government hesitating over the idea of a free garbage system and haggling over the petty details of administration; at one moment complaining of the lack of money and in the next authorizing such useless expenditures as a salary for a private chauffeur for the mayor.

Major-General Murray intimates that the federal government will station twenty thousand soldiers in and around Honolulu, doubling the white population of the island; the navy department is proceeding with its plans for building up at Pearl Harbor the greatest naval station under the flag, which will mean a civilian population at the lochs of several thousand and a naval population of probably as many more.

Yet, from those who are in charge of public affairs, not a word is heard concerning any comprehensive plan for meeting the conditions that are to come within the next few years.

It is as certain as the sun will rise tomorrow that the Honolulu of five years from now will be as different to the Honolulu of today as this city is different from the Honolulu of twenty years ago, but so far as can be gathered from any plans of the city authorities being worked out or from any public utterance on the part of any one of them, their idea is that Honolulu is to stay in the same old rut of rotten politics, with the government continued indefinitely to be run in the interests of a few hundred citizen laborers.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAD.

Some weeks prior to his death, the late Surgeon-General Wyman wrote to Secretary H. P. Wood, of the Pan-Pacific Congress, and his words come now almost like a message from the dead to the people of Honolulu. Referring to some of the things the congress should do, the surgeon-general wrote:

One or two topics seem to me to be of great interest and to have an important bearing on the future prosperity of Hawaii. These topics are as follows:

Mosquitoes as carriers of disease and the necessity of their extermination. The value of the destruction of rats from economic and health standpoints.

The general topic of tropical sanitation might be broader and would include the two topics mentioned, but in my opinion, the extermination of mosquitoes and the destruction of rats are the most important means of preventing two exotic diseases from gaining a foothold in the Islands. They are in themselves large problems and deserving of the attention not only of the health authorities, but of all interested in the welfare of the Islands.

PURE FEUDALISM, SAYS MR. BAKER. TAX RATE WILL BE ONE PER CENT

American Magazine Man Tells the Worst He Heard About Plantation Owners.

Kauai May Cut Under That, but Oahu Will Have Same Rate as Before.

Ray Stannard Baker, in the second of a series of articles he has written for the American Magazine, pays particular attention to the "feudal aristocracy" of the Islands, reviewing what he has told here of the corporate pressure brought to bear to throttle independence in industry. He gives an instance where he maintains the Hilo Sugar Company failed to live up to cane contracts made with a number of independent land owners after having killed off all competition for the cane.

"Of course they expostulated and objected," writes Mr. Baker, "but what could they do? There was no other mill which would bid for their product and, moreover, they were heavily in debt to the corporation for supplies, fertilizers and the like, and upon these debts, by the way, they were forced to pay ten per cent. interest. And they had to borrow of the plantation corporation, because the banks of Hilo, controlled by the same plantation interests, refused to loan to them. In other words, they were forced into dependence on the plantation manager. And the manager now began to thresh and winnow them thoroughly."

"Gamaliel and his friends, having their hands in cane crops and seeing no way out, decided to go forward and see if they could make a living by accepting the price paid by the mill, and so dodged were they, so determined, that it took seven years to drive them into absolute bankruptcy. When all hope was finally gone, they joined together and began suits. Of course, the rich plantation corporation with all the money, all the political influence, all the social power of the Islands behind it, could hire lawyers and make a long fight, and while the housekeepers were their contention that their contract was valid, still, through all sort of legal devices, through the pleading of the statute of limitations and so on, the homesteaders finally came out without a cent—squeezed dry. Gamaliel was forced into bankruptcy and has practically nothing left."

"It is difficult for an outsider to form any adequate conception of the extent to which a feudal aristocracy, dominating the land, can direct or influence even in remote details the life, the income, the politics, the education and even the religion of the country," says the writer, in a preceding section of his article. "Not only does the plantation manager dominate the actual work on his own plantation but his domination extends to all the people who live around the plantation—to all the little settlements and to all the small farmers near about. And being in most instances an employee himself, with his own success dependent on making dividends for distant stockholders, it may be imagined how thoroughly he turns all his power to advantage with yearly profits in view."

"Let me illustrate: Along nearly the whole northern and northeastern coast of the island of Hawaii extends a broad band of plantations. Among these plantations are quite a number of small villages with a few white men in each and many Japanese and Portuguese. And back on the hills are a few small land owners and homesteaders who are nominally independent of the plantations."

"Many of the plantations have built wharves or landings in front of their mills and here vessels stop and discharge their freight. Some of this freight is ordered by the small merchants, and independent homesteaders."

"The plantation fixes a scale of charges on landing goods from the vessel to the wharf. I have before me a list of the landing charges of the Honokaa Sugar Company. For lifting one barrel of cement, twenty cents; a bag of grain, ten cents; a barrel of whisky, \$2.50; a bicycle, fifty cents; a sewing machine, \$1.00; and so on."

"Let us see how this works out in the case of a ton of barley shipped from San Francisco to Honolulu. The freight from San Francisco to Hilo, over 2500 miles, is \$2.75 a ton. There is still ocean competition from San Francisco. But at Hilo competition ends. All the interisland shipping is practically monopolized by the Inter-Island Steamship Company, owned and controlled by the same interests as the plantations—an enormously profitable company."

"When the ton of barley gets to Hilo, then, it is taken by the Inter-Island Steamship Company and pays \$3 freight for a trip of sixty miles to Honolulu. It paid \$2.75 for over 2500 miles from San Francisco—and nearly twice as much for sixty miles to Honolulu. Here it is landed on the private wharf of the plantation corporation at ten cents a bag or \$2 for a ton."

"But the profit in such devices as these is not, after all, the main thing. The power, the control, which it gives the plantation corporation over all the people of the community; over the laborers, over the merchants, over the voters—that is the main thing."

"It enables them to dictate largely who shall thrive and who shall not, it enables them to discipline the unruly voter and crowd out any man who does not submit. But more than this, it increases very materially the cost of living to the people. They have to pay more for all sorts of imported food, horse-feed, machinery—everything they use. It is another way by which the controlling financial interests tax all the people."

A contrast between liberality in charity and uplift work and some of the existing conditions is drawn, Mr. Baker says.

"Thus many of the planters of Hawaii have gone to really astonishing lengths in developing all sorts of benevolent activities. This is especially

(From Sunday's Advertiser.)

The tax rate for next year in the City and County of Honolulu will probably be one per cent, the same as this year, according to the investigations so far made with a view to settling upon a rate. As far as the other counties are concerned, those who have gone into the matter think that Kauai county will be able to make a rate under one per cent, while Hawaii may raise her rate above that.

The fixing of the rate is left to the tax assessor, in each county, under the law which goes into effect on the first of next month. Both the county and the Territory are to submit to Assessor Charles T. Wilder, their estimates of what funds they will need during the year. Then it will be up to Wilder to figure out what tax rate is necessary to produce the sum called for, with a special proviso that the county income shall not be more than two-thirds of one per cent, for the purposes of current expenses and permanent improvements, no matter what the tax rate is. If the county asks for sums which will exceed two-thirds of one per cent, the assessor must cut the county's estimates.

Returns Will Not Be In.

"It may be difficult to estimate the tax rate in January," said Assessor Wilder yesterday when asked concerning the new program, "for the reason that property returns do not come in until a couple of months or so later. As the act provides, we shall take the figures of the preceding year as our basis."

"This office has to wait until it hears from the supervisors through the territorial treasurer. With their figures in hand, we can sit down and figure what tax rate is necessary. If the supervisors' estimates are low enough, we may make a rate of less than one per cent. I do not think there is any reason to believe that the rate will be more than one per cent."

CONTRACT WILL GO TO LORD & YOUNG

The formal award of the contract for the reconstruction of the Judiciary Building will probably be made on Wednesday to Lord & Young at a price of \$99,000. The only other bid was that of the Pacific Engineering Company, which made a price of \$110,900. Part of the difference in the figures is due to offers of different types of finishing on certain inside work. Superintendent Campbell said yesterday afternoon that the figures had been gone into sufficiently to make it seem sure that the Lord-Young company would get the work, but that he could not yet decide definitely.

The work is to be started immediately on the awarding of the contract, and the courts and territorial department now having quarters in the building will probably begin moving this week.

COULD NOT PROSECUTE.

Because there is no specific charge in the statutes which can be brought against a man drugging an eight-year-old boy with wine, the police yesterday had to discharge Joe Gomes from custody, after arresting him for that offense. Deputy Sheriff Rose investigated the case yesterday morning and found that neither the malicious mischief regulation covering the furnishing of liquor to minors could apply. The actual facts of the case seemed to be that three or four boys had entered a house where a little conviviality was being indulged in and asked for some of the liquor. Gomes appears to have poured out a glass for them, and when the first was drinking his share, a companion knocked him arm and he gulped down the whole tumbler. He was afterwards picked up on the street staggering drunk, by a police officer.

English and Canadian capitalists plan a \$150,000 reclamation project over three hundred thousand acres central Washington, where the Ellick Irrigation and Power Company has begun construction.

True of the old missionary stock, which has a tender conscience, and responds readily to the sense of obligation which goes with great power. I have rarely visited any place where there was much charity and as little democracy as in Hawaii. Colleges, kindergartens, churches, missions, and social settlements flourish there with unexampled vigor. A year or so ago they want a new Y. M. C. A. building and we went with the intention of raising \$10,000 in ten days, but so liberal was the giving that they got \$143,000 in a few days, and had to close the subscription; in one missionary collection Dr. Bender's great church last year over \$30,000 was raised.

"At the same time Honolulu is some of the worst slums in the world and if poverty in the tropics is picturesque, its surroundings are none the less painful. For downright overcrowding and unsanitary conditions it would be hard to find anything worse than some of the filthy old tenements which visited in the city of Honolulu. As one will find here, nearly as in some of Chicago or New York, earnest men and women trying to convert the miserable creatures to the religion of Him who laid down the Golden Rule."